

Message Text

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ORIGIN ERDA-07

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: U.S.-IRAN COOPERATION IN SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH

REF: TEHRAN 4087

1. RE PARA 3 REFTTEL, ERDA BELIEVES CELL TECHNOLOGY IS NOW AT THE INDUSTRIAL LEVEL. THEREFORE, ERDA WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN IN UNDERTAKING A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT WITH AN AMERICAN COMPANY TO DEVELOP AND DELIVER SOLAR CELL SYSTEMS. ERDA AND ITS LABORATORIES WOULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE AND OVERVIEW AS REQUIRED AND IF ASKED. BASIC CONTRACT WOULD BE BETWEEN SUCCESSFUL BIDDING COMPANY AND GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

2. WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF A TOTAL ENERGY SYSTEM, ERDA IS PREPARED TO RECEIVE MERC COMPUTER EXPERT AT SANDIA FOR TWO MONTHS AND TO COOPERATE WITH HIM IN HIS
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EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A PLAN AND APPROACH FOR A TOTAL ENERGY SYSTEM FOR AN IRANIAN VILLAGE. WHEN THE IRANIANS ARE READY TO BEGIN THE ASSIGNMENT, THEY SHOULD SEND THE FORMAL REQUEST TO ERDA THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS.

3. IN GENERAL, SANDIA PERSONNEL WOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION AS NEEDED TO HELP CONCEPTUALIZE A SYSTEM FOR APPLICATION

IRANIANS HAVE IN MIND. THE COMPUTER MODEL FOR PROJECTING PERFORMANCE AND COST OF TOTAL ENERGY SYSTEM IS DOCUMENTED AND IS AVAILABLE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION BASIS. SANDIA WOULD ASSIST IRANIAN EXPERT IN WORKING WITH THE MODEL. ERDA ANTICIPATES ABOUT ONE PERSON-MONTH OF SANDIA TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ASSIST IN OUTLINING A PROJECT. PRE-SUMABLY PROJECT OUTLINED WOULD BE TAKEN BACK TO IRAN AND WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR THEIR FUNDING.

4. WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE COOPERATION TO IMPLEMENT A TOTAL ENERGY SYSTEM, ERDA ANTICIPATES THAT BASIC PROJECT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY CONTRACT BETWEEN IRAN AND A U.S. INDUSTRIAL COMPANY. ERDA WOULD CONSIDER ASSISTING IRAN IN DEVELOPING A PROCUREMENT PACKAGE, EVALUATING RESPONSES, AND RECOMMENDING THE BEST PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING, IF REQUESTED BY IRAN TO DO SO. THE CONTRACT WOULD BE SIGNED BY GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AND THE INDUSTRIAL COMPANY.

5. IF REQUESTED ERDA WOULD PROVIDE SOME TECHNICAL ADVICE AND OVERVIEW AND MIGHT CONSIDER ASSISTANCE IN THE ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF PROJECT. ERDA WOULD PROVIDE PROJECT AND TECHNICAL OVERVIEW BUT WOULD NOT AT THIS TIME CONSIDER FUNDING ANY PART OF THE PROJECT IN TERMS OF HARDWARE OR INSTRUMENTATION.

6. IN SUMMARY, THE ERDA WILL CONSIDER PROVIDING SERVICES
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AS OUTLINED ABOVE BUT IS NOT CONSIDERING INVESTMENT OF FUNDS IN EQUIPMENT OR INSTRUMENTATION TO BE DELIVERED IN IRAN. THESE PROCUREMENT SERVICES AND TECHNICAL OVERVIEW FUNCTIONS WOULD BE PROVIDED ONLY ON THE BASIS THAT U.S. COMPANIES ARE INVOLVED IN DELIVERING THE SYSTEMS AND THE DATA AND RESULTS FROM THE PROJECT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ERDA FOR ANALYSIS AND FUTURE PROGRAM GUIDANCE.

7. PLEASE ADVISE IRANIAN REACTION TO ABOVE.

8. WE DOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING ADDITIONAL COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD DURING COURSE OF UPCOMING ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING. VANCE

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